

WE CLAIM:

1           1.       A method of searching financial transactions against a server-resident  
2 file of sanctioned entities using a network, the network including a plurality of servers  
3 accessible by a plurality of user terminals, comprising:

4           inputting at one of the plurality of user terminals a search request text pattern  
5 for searching a server-resident database of sanctioned entities, the search request text  
6 pattern including a text string, the text string further including one or more regular  
7 expression operators, including letters, digits or punctuation marks to further define  
8 the search request text pattern and to further identify the server being invoked;

9           storing the search request text pattern as an entry in a search request  
10 instruction file, the search request instruction file being accessible by a server  
11 processor;

12           transmitting the search request instruction file to the server processor invoked  
13 via the network;

14           the server processor checking the search request text pattern, the checking  
15 including matching text patterns of the search request text pattern against a file of  
16 sanctioned entities stored as a matchable text pattern file in the server; and

17           upon execution of the search, transmitting search results to the user terminal  
18 via the network.

1           2.       The method according to claim 1, wherein the server-resident  
2 matchable text pattern file includes the OFAC sanction list.

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1           3.       The method according to claim 2, wherein servers are located in  
2 different countries.

1           4.       The method according to claim 3, wherein the server includes a  
2 plurality of matchable text pattern files including user defined sanction lists.

1           5.       The method according to claim 4, wherein the search request  
2 instruction file further defines the matchable text pattern files to be searched.

1           6.       The method according to claim 1, further comprising:  
2 defining sanctioned entities as matchable text patterns;  
3 storing matchable text patterns as individual phrases;  
4 arranging individual phrases as a letter tree array;  
5 generating a search node for each character in the search request text pattern to  
6 be checked against matchable text patterns;  
7 comparing search nodes against characters and positions in the letter tree  
8 array; and  
9 determining whether a match occurs.

1           7.       The method according to claim 6, wherein the search request  
2 instruction file includes a spell correct flag to include spelling variations of the search  
3 request text pattern to be checked against the matchable text pattern file.







5 means for generating a search node for each character in the search request  
6 text pattern to be checked against matchable text patterns;  
7 means for comparing search nodes against characters and positions in the letter  
8 tree array; and  
9 means for determining whether a match occurs.

1 22. The system according to claim 21, wherein the search request  
2 instruction file includes a means for including spelling variations of search request  
3 text patterns to be checked against the matchable text pattern file.

1 23. The system according to claim 21, wherein the search request  
2 instruction file includes a means for including missing letters in the search request  
3 text pattern to be checked against the matchable text pattern file.

1 24. The system according to claim 21, wherein the search request  
2 instruction file includes a means for including transposed letters in the search request  
3 text pattern to be checked against the matchable text pattern file.

1 25. The system according to claim 16, further comprising:  
2 means for generating a user authorization code at the time the terminal user  
3 inputs a text pattern selection for checking against a sanctioned entity database; and

